

1 prosecution.

2 It would also increase the overall sense
3 of worker productivity out there in the work force for
4 people who do have a compulsive problem, and it would
5 also save the lives of those persons who may at this
6 very moment be considering suicide as a result of
7 their problems.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you very much.

10 Lawrence Jameson.

11 MR. JAMESON: My name is the Reverend
12 Doctor Lawrence Jameson. I'm a born again Christian,
13 and I'm a United Methodist pastor, and I'm also a
14 resident of Cecil County.

15 What this Commission can do for Cecil
16 County, Maryland, is to tell Congress to pass laws to
17 keep casinos out of public schools. We'd like to ask
18 you to keep a leash on this predator.

19 Now, casinos in Louisiana and other states
20 are going into the public schools. They are donating
21 school books, gym equipment, and computers, and
22 they're even giving dice and playing cards for

1 teachers to use as math aids.

2 Now, it's in the papers in Louisiana.

3 Why are they doing this?

4 I'd also like to invite this group to
5 consider going to Louisiana to see this for
6 yourselves. I know you've talked about this today.

7 The casinos have a bad reputation.
8 They're spattered and stained with the destruction of
9 thousands of families, and because of addiction,
10 bankruptcy, crime, and divorce, they've had to hire PR
11 firms.

12 The PR people said, "Let's see if we can
13 get away with donating money to the schools." This is
14 taking place in Louisiana, and at the same time, the
15 Department of Psychiatry, the Louisiana State
16 University Medical Center School of Medicine in
17 Shreveport has published their study on adolescent
18 gambling.

19 Now, I know you have this report. I know
20 you're familiar with it. You know that 12,000
21 children grades six through 12 were surveyed. You
22 know what the survey said. You know that 16 percent

1 of these children demonstrated increased risk factors
2 for problem gambling, and that six percent have
3 serious problems with gambling.

4 You know these numbers, but how much is
5 six percent? In Louisiana, that's 26,000 children who
6 have serious problems with gambling.

7 Now, this isn't any different than what
8 happened with the tobacco industry. The tobacco
9 companies used to give away cigarettes in the public
10 schools. They used to sponsor assemblies, and the
11 same sort of thing that the casinos are doing right
12 now in the public schools the tobacco industry did in
13 the 1940s.

14 They don't do it anymore. Why is that?
15 Is it because it is a heavily regulated, adults only
16 industry? Is it because the public has seen past the
17 lies? Is it because the tobacco industry has an
18 addictive product that hurts people?

19 Yes. Casino America is the same company
20 that is weaseling into the schools in Louisiana and
21 throwing the money around in Cecil County where I
22 live. Now, this pumpkin was donated by Casino

1 America, which is spending thousands of dollars in
2 Cecil County.

3 Please put a leash on this company and
4 keep them out of our county.

5 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

6 Ira.

7 MR. SHTAB: Ira Shtab.

8 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Shtab. Thank you.

9 MR. SHTAB: How are you tonight?

10 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Just fine.

11 MR. SHTAB: Well, thank you for hearing
12 me.

13 Before moving to Atlantic City area --

14 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Ira, I'm going to have to
15 ask you to get closer so the people in the back can
16 hear you.

17 MR. SHTAB: Sure. How's this? A little
18 better?

19 CHAIRMAN JAMES: That's much better.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. SHTAB: Okay. Before moving to
22 Atlantic City area --